

I firmly believe that one of the most important functions of a Democracy is maintaining a Press and other news sources that are kept very independent and not under control of a few limited owners, so that access to news and editorials are able to be disseminated with a wide range of opinions for the population to choose from. This is essential for citizens to hear and see all views, and opinions so that informed and intelligent decisions can be made by the electorate. If ownership is narrowed, control of information will eventually have the danger of destroying the essential access to conflicting ideas, and the erosion of Democracy. The decidedly

biased reporting of the recent events of the war in Iraq is proof that the media cannot be trusted to report the facts as opposed to the fiction that the Bush administration is foisting on the American people. Unfortunately, in the absence of

strong scrutiny by the press of the truth, trusting Americans are left with few options to the propaganda that the rest of the world has identified in our news coverage. If very few people have maximum power over the airwaves and press, administrations like Bush's will find it easier and easier to mislead Americans in an

effort to shore up more and more power toward their self-serving agendas. I urge you

not only to keep the current restrictions in place, but to find legal avenues for

smaller news agencies and press to gain equal and non-discriminatory access to The White House Press Corps and other such groups without the cronyism and favoritism recently observed in recent White House press briefings led by Ari Fleicher.